

Reading Skill

IDENTIFY MAIN IDEA

The **main idea** of a paragraph is the basic point it makes. Churchill organizes his ideas carefully so that listeners can follow them. As you read this speech, pause after reading each paragraph. Identify the basic point that Churchill is making. Sometimes the main idea is stated directly. More often, you will need to infer the main idea by evaluating how all of the ideas in a paragraph work together to support one basic point. By stating the main idea of each paragraph, you create a list of the main ideas in the speech.

Directions: Record the main idea in each paragraph.

	Main Idea
Paragraph 1	
Paragraph 2	
Paragraph 3	
Paragraph 4	
Paragraph 5	
Paragraph 6	
Paragraph 7	
Paragraph 8	
Paragraph 9	

from THE SPEECHES, MAY 19, 1940